

London Parade for Play

International Day of Play, Tuesday 11 June 2024

Parliament Square, London SW1P 3JX

We are delighted to share further details of the plan for the inaugural London Parade for Play on the first ever International Day of Play!

We can confirm that we will be starting and finishing from Parliament Square. The parade route will take us up Whitehall, past 10 Downing Street, down to the river and back to Parliament Square. See route map attached and event schedule below:

- 4.30pm Gather at Parliament Square near the Gandhi statue (west side of square)
- 5pm Parade begins, heading up Whitehall towards Downing Street
 - Children to take turns leading chants (we will have a megaphone)
 - Bring noise making instruments – eg drums, bells, whistles
 - Photo stops – at Downing Street, opposite the London Eye and next to Big Ben/Palace of Westminster
- 5.45pm Parade returns to Parliament Square
 - Children to speak (see suggested themes below)
 - Groups to create a play trail around the outside of the square using colourful chalk and tape
- 7pm Groups leave square
- 7.30pm Square to be completely vacated

We will be inviting the press and it will be a great opportunity for the public, politicians and decision makers to see children in all their noisy, playful, colourful and creative energy occupying and animating public space at the epicentre of political power in London and the UK.

Children taking the lead

As outlined above, we want children to take the lead in this event as much as possible. We hope that they will lead the chants on the parade and speak in the square at the end of the parade.

Chants: Please get children to think about some chants for the route. Some examples we thought of to get the ideas flowing (if only to tell us that these are LAME!)

“We are children – we need play!” “What do we want? PLAY! When do we want it? EVERY DAY”

Speeches: Please also ask children if they would be prepared to speak to the crowd for a few minutes, perhaps on one of the following topics:

- How can Sadiq Khan make good on his promise to make London the best city in the world to grow up in?
- Why do you think it’s important to play?
- What is your best memory of play in London
- What can adults do to make London the best city in the world for children

Parade practicalities

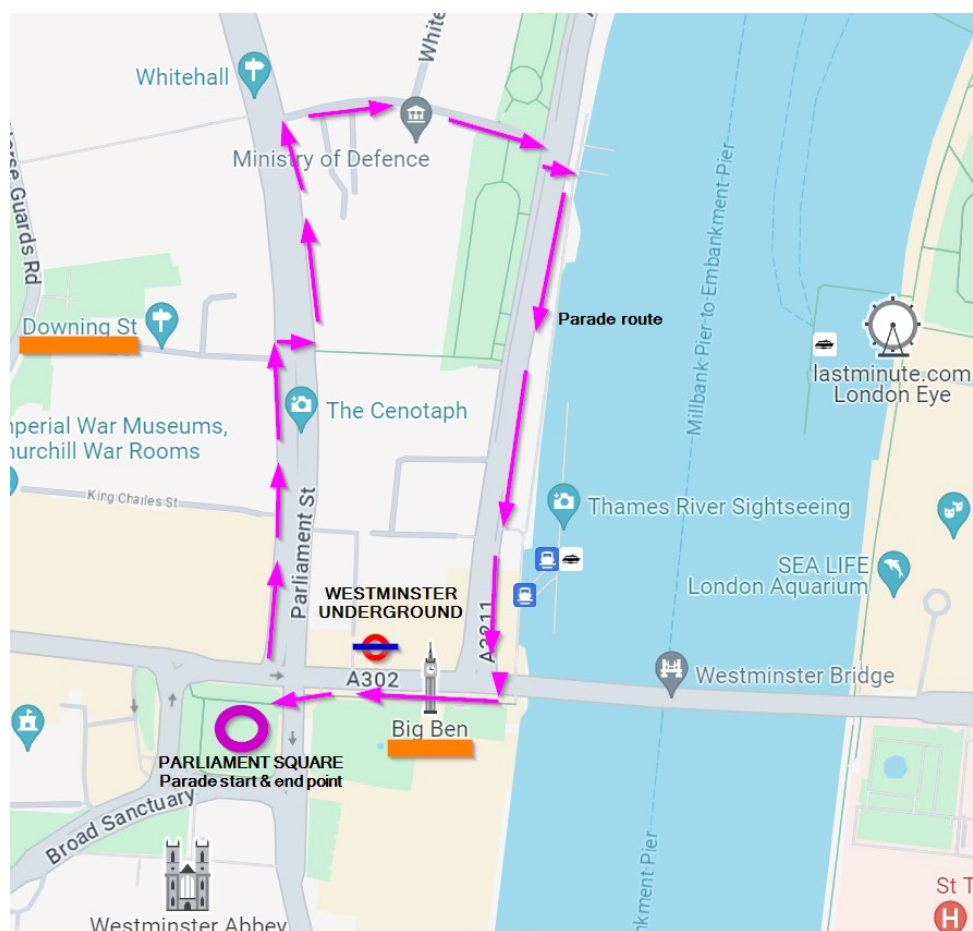
Travel: The nearest tube station is Westminster (Jubilee, District and Circle Lines and many, many bus routes also serve this location)

What to bring: Colourful banners, signs, instruments, play items, costumes and loud voices! Dress for the weather (it's looking good so far) – suncream/hat or raincoat/warm clothes. Bring water, snacks. See banner-making tips here: www.campaigngears.com

Safety: Note that all groups of children will remain the responsibility of the adults accompanying them. The parade will be on the pavement but there are several points where we will be crossing roads. The London Play team will be wearing hi-vis and marshalling along the parade route, monitoring crossing points etc but we need your help to keep your groups together and safe.

Photography: There will be a professional photographer at the event so please arrange photo permissions for all children. We will have a limited number of arm bands available to be worn by any children who do not have permission, so we can avoid sharing photos they appear in.

Route map:



Contact details:

Please email info@londonplay.org.uk or contact Fiona 07445 770 105 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!